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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/776,085	02/11/2004	Dilip Tapadiya	TAPADI.003C3	2366

20995 7590 08/24/2007
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EXAMINER

BOGART, MICHAEL G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3761

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/24/2007

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

jcartee@kmob.com
eOAPilot@kmob.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/776,085

Applicant(s)

TAPADIYA, DILIP

Examiner

Michael G. Bogart

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 122-126 and 128-133 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 122-126 and 128-133 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 June 2007 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/5/06; 7/27/06 & 9/29/06.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 04 June 2007 has been entered.

Drawings

The drawings filed 04 June 2007 are informal and are acceptable for examination purposes only.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

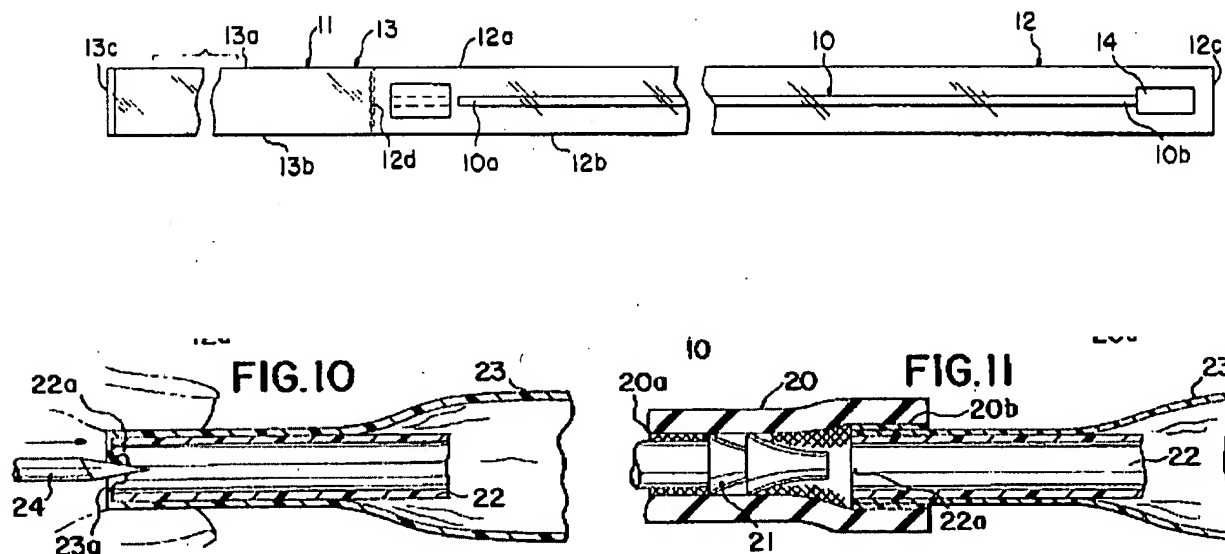
The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 122-126, 128, and 130-133 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bryan *et al.* (US 5,582,165 A).

Regarding claim 122, Bryan *et al.* teach a medical kit comprising a sterilized package (12, 23) containing a sterilized length of suction hose (10, 22)(see figures 1, 10 & 11, *infra*).

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Bryan *et al.* do not teach the specifically claimed inner diameter of the suction hose.

Mere changes in the relative size of an element are not sufficient to patentably distinguish a claimed invention over the prior art. See *Gardner v. TEC Systems, Inc.*, 725 F.2d 1338, 220 USPQ 777 (Fed. Cir. 1984), *cert. denied*, 469 U.S. 830, 225 USPQ 232 (1984), the Federal Circuit held that, where the only difference between the prior art and the claims was a recitation of relative dimensions of the claimed device and a device having the claimed relative dimensions would not perform differently than the prior art device, the claimed device was not patentably distinct from the prior art device. MPEP § 2144.04.

Regarding claim 123, Bryan *et al.* teach a length of suction hose (27) which includes first and second ends, and first (14, 20) and second female (25) adapters connected to the first and second ends, respectively.

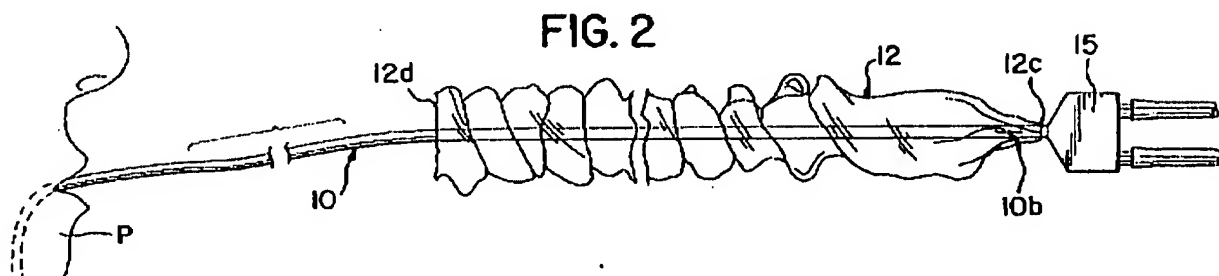
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Regarding claims 124 and 128, Bryan *et al.* teach that the first female adapter (14, 20) is configured to be connectable with an outlet of a suction device (10, 20). Regarding the specific diameter, see the discussion of claim 122, *supra*.

Regarding claims 125 and 126, Bryan *et al.* teach that the first connector (20, 21) is connected to a suction device than can be held by hand (10)(see figure 2, *infra*).

Regarding claim 130, Bryan *et al.* teach that the catheter (10, 22) is a suction hose that is applied for endotracheal suctioning. Structurally, this hose meets all the limitations of the claimed suction hose.

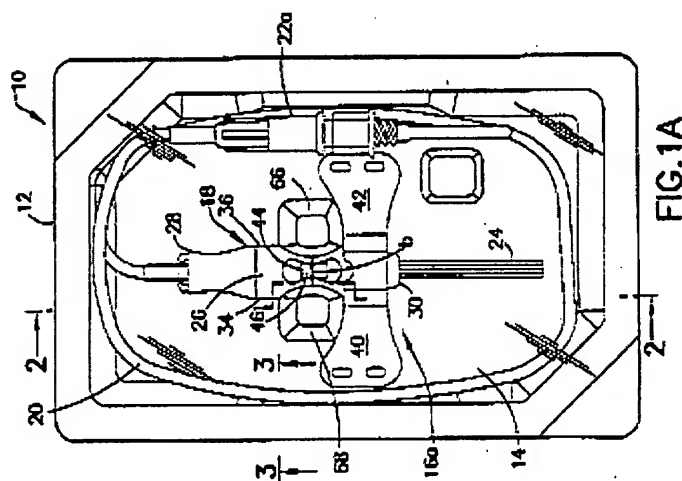
Regarding claims 131-133, Bryan *et al.* teach that the first connector (20, 21) is connected to a suction device (10) that may be held by hand (see figure 2, *infra*).



Claim 129 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bryan *et al.* as applied to claims 122-126, 128 and 130-133 above, and further in view of Giard, Jr. *et al.* (US 2003/0062281 A1).

Bryan *et al.* do not expressly disclose that the suction hose is coiled inside the package.

Giard, Jr. *et al.* teach packaging (12) for a medical collection device that includes a coiled tube (20)(see figure 1A, below).



Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 04 June 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants assert that Bryan *et al.* do not teach a suction hose inner diameters and a connector with first and second inner diameters. Regarding the “suction hose” limitation, see col. 1, lines 56-57. Regarding the first and second inner diameters, see the enumerated rejection of claim 128, *supra*, and figure 11.

Regarding the rejection of claims 122-126 and 128-133, applicants assert that the claimed invention would perform differently than that of Bryan *et al.* because this size permits compatibility with operating room hoses. This is not persuasive because this is not evidence that it performs differently, only that is compatible with operating hoses of a certain diameter.

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Additionally, increasing the size allows for passage of more liquid than a smaller lumen. One of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized the need to size the connector to fit whatever suction source that the device was intended to be used with. How it functions is the same, it connects to a source and allows negative pressure to be applied to the suction hose.

It is obvious to apply a known technique (increasing lumen diameter) to a known device ready for improvement to yield predictable results. One of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that increasing the diameter of a lumen would decrease the chances of particles of a given size passing therethrough from clogging the lumen. The claim would have been obvious because increasing the diameter of a lumen designed to have biological liquid possibly containing biological solids pass through it was recognized as part of the ordinary capabilities of one of ordinary skill in the art.

Conclusion

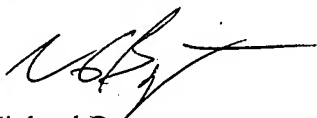
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Bogart whose telephone number is (571) 272-4933.

In the event the examiner is not available, the Examiner's supervisor, Tatyana Zalukaeva may be reached at phone number (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300 for formal communications. For informal communications, the direct fax to the Examiner is (571) 273-4933.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3700.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Michael Bogart
15 August 2007

TATYANA ZALUKAEVA
SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER

